खरीद भी तो सकें । इसलिए इसका भी कोई प्रोटेक्शन हो, कम से कम अखबारों को कागज आदि सब्सीडाइज्ड रेट पर दिया जाये, इस तरह की व्यवस्था की जाये ताकि जनसाधारण इसको खरीद सकें ।

एक बात आखिर में फिर दोहरा दूं । हमने इस बिल का पूरा समर्थन किया है पूरा सदन ही इसका समर्थन कर रहा है लेकिन लागू करना तो आपके हाथ में है । हमको ऐसा लग रहा है कि इसमें कुछ लूपहोल्स हैं जिनकी मैंने चर्चा की है । कानून के जरिये आप इनको नहीं रोक सकेंगे लेकिन कुछ व्यवस्था कीजिए । यह मैं इसलिए चर्चा कर रहा हूं कि हमारा श्रम मंत्रालय जो है उसको दांत नहीं हैं । मंत्री को दांत नहीं है वह अलग बात है हमको भी दांत नहीं है लेकिन श्रम मंत्रालय को दांत नहीं हैं ... (व्यवधान) मंत्री जी आपको तो दांत हैं लेकिन आपके मंत्रालय को दांत नहीं हैं । आप पकड़ नहीं सकते हैं किसी पूंजीपति को, कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं । जिनके दांत हैं वह होम मिनिस्ट्री है वही कुछ कर सकती है या दूसरे लोग कुछ कर सकते हैं इसलिए इनका सहारा लेकर करें, नहीं तो आपका हो या वेल्फेयर मंत्री जी का विभाग हो, इन लोगों के दांत ही नहीं हैं, बिना दांत के मंत्रालय ये सब हैं । इसलिए दांत वाले भी मदद करें ताकि जल्दी से जल्दी बचावत

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY); Before I call Mr. Kulkarni, I have to make an announcement.

Shri Santosh Mohan Dev Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, will make a statement regarding the Bodo situation and the Prime Minister's speech on the Independence Day, at 3 p.m. and 3.30 p.m., respectively, in the Rajya Sabha today.

श्रम मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय) उपसभाध्यक्षजी

आज विजनेस, लिस्ट में बहुत ज्यादा है और मेरा अनुरोध है कि अगर लंच ब्रेक न हो तो हमारे मेम्बर भी ज्यादा पार्टिसिपेट कर लेंगे और विजनेस अधिक से अधिक हो सकता है । इसलिए आज लंच ब्रेक को नहीं किया जाये ।

SHRI M. A. BABY; This is Friday. We have a convention in relation to Friday. Therefore my submission is that it is not fair to suspend the lunch hour. We can sit late, if necessary. Even we should take lip the great, revolutionary Panchayati raj Bill also, about which the Government is not very enthusiastic.

डा. रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : चलने दीजिए । लंच को ब्रेक कर दीजिए ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री वी. सत्यनारायण रेड्डी) : बैठ जाइये । कुलकर्णी जी को बोलने दीजिए इसके बाद डिसाइड कर लेंगे ।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra); Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am supporting the Bill brought forward by the Government. I am particularly vedy happy that the Government has found time, and is going fast today so that it can become a law in the near future.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I reciprocate some of the views expressed by my colleague, Mr. Chaturanan Mishra, because I also found out—it is for the Minister to find out... (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY); No side-discussions, please.

SHRI A. G. 'KULKARNI; Sir, there may be two or more newspaper establishments publishing newspapers bearing the same or similar titles and in the same language in any place in India or bearing the same or similar titles but in different languages in the same State or territory. Perhaps it might be misused. It is for the Ministry to decide how far it can go as a valid proposition legally.

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni]

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the second aspect of this Bill about which I am very much worried is about the condition of the newspaper reporters in this country. One instance of Bihar was cited. I made a Special Mention to tell the House how the Bihar mafia and the Police together have beaten a newspaper correspondent. Similarly in Punjab the terrorists have killed some of the newspaper vendors, thereby indirectly putting a pressure on the owners not to publish the newspaper. This is not a proper way because thereby you contain the freedom of the press. So I take objection to it. How far is the Home Ministry going to stop this nonsense? The same is the position in Delhi. We were told that threatening calls are made by some politicians to the Editor of a newspaper. This is also a way of bringing in constraints on the freedom of the press.

Another aspect which was brought in is the newsprint prices. I am a member of the Newsprint Committee. But I could not understand how these prices are fixed. There was a very valuable scheme evolved by the Government about the imported newsprint and the Indian newsprint.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal); What is the function of your committee?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI; The function of the committee is to advise the Government on newsprint policy. We are alluting more newspaper to. the jSistriictk-IieVtel (small 'newspapers. But by and large, the position is that the prices (/ newspapers and particularly of the indigenous newspapers are rising fantastically. I would request the Minister to convey my feelings to the Minister of Information and Broadcits'tinft or to the Minister of Industry. He should put some controls so that the prices come down. Other fee nobodv can afford to buy a papf costing Rs. 1.50. or Rs. 2.00 or Rs {'OO or Rs. 5.00. In this way, an intllect constraint comes on the spread of information *m* the country.

Sir, I support the Bill, i feel that the newspaper scribes and the media men were paid very little wages. Therefore, the quality of the content was always at a discount. But if the payments, are properly made and are commensurate with the living standard, then perhaps the content value and the content credibility of the ifpaper scribe will increase. In this connection also I support the> Bill.

I find that in this country the political atmoshpere is so vitiated and the newspapers are taking sides. One is here and one is there and they are attacking each other not amongst themselves but attacking the politicians in their warfare. In this way, the political shadrness is further being polished. It is not a proper sign of the independence of the newspapers and news service. I think that what Mr. Chaturanan Mishra said was about the corporate organisers or the corporate chiefs starting various newspapers and controlling various newspapers. Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have got an apprehension that a day might come when the corporate organisers becoming richer and richer day by day will try to keep a control on the Government. I am very much apprehensive of this attitude of the industrial world. So, a way has to be found out. Actually, in France, 'Le Monde' is really a co-operative newspaper organisation. But how far cooperative organisations in this country are thriving. I do not know I have no information because in my own district one was started but it was stonoed later. Unfortunately, they coul not work. Perhans. the Minister for Labour will find a way out. This is another way of starting competition against this coroorate world. The co-oorative character of a newS-paoer with massive aid from the Government mav. perhaps, help to bring in a rational view. Now, **Sir,** what we see is that during the last

four or five years—it was there pre- I viously but it was in a trickle—scan^ dal-mongering has increased, and the developmental aspect of the country is finding less space in the news content of the newspapers nowadays. You have the advertisements, then these scandals. And the developmental aspect or whatever it is the environmental aspect, the employment generation programmes, the programmes Of the farming community all these do not find a place in the news content of the newspapers. So, for that purpose, i think, the newspapers should be helped or some way should be find out whereby the developmental activity which is taking place in this country finds a place because the price of the newsprint is too much and many newspapers have reduced their pages. Except one or two, most of the newspapers have reduced the pages. Sir, I would think that the control of the corporate world over the newspaper may ultimately endanger the political system in this country. And for that purpose some other system must be worked out. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY); The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-four minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock, The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

WORKING JOURNALISTS AND THER NEWSPAPEREMPLOYEES(CONDIOF SERVICE) ANDMISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BDLL, 1989—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H- K. L. BHAGAT): Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to make one thing clear on behalf of the 3overnment that the Government is very keen to pass the Constitution Amendment Bills relating to the Pan-:hayati Raj as well as the Nagar Palikas, and of course the other Constitution Amendment Bill is there.

The two Bills are of historic significance. They will usher in this :ountry very basic crucial changes like participatory democracy and involvement of people. Therefore we are attaching the highest importance to them. Now, because we are attaching the highest importance to them, we want to see that the Opposition in this House—whatever we have heard them—do not seem inclined to support such a radical forward-looking revolutionary measure. And we want to pass it to the best of our capacity. Therefore we are neither running away from the debate nor from voting and therefore we are not putting it to vote today and we would rather have it in the next sitting of the Rajya Sabha, whenever it takes place.

Meanwhile I would appeal to the opposition to think twice before they make up their mind, so that they will get a chance to think that they should not oppose such radical measures. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I am on a point of order. The Hon. Minister, Mr. Bhagat, stated that the Opposition should think twice about this Panchayati Raj Bill. (Interruptions). Madam, it is very clear that the Government has bungled in this because they wanted to extend the session only for the purpose of considering and passing the Bills. But then they had second thoughts, because some of their calculations went wrong. Then they developed cold feet. *(Interruptions).* Mr. Bhagat, please.

Mr. Bhagat, please, you know very well that day before yesterday we very clearly stated from the opposition side that we are prepared to discuss the Bills even sitting late in the night

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

and the voting should take place today, i.e. on Friday. But they only changed the tactics. They wanted to delay the discussion. Even this morning this was said. So, you are running away, not we. We are here to defeat the Bills. (Interruptions)

Even in the morning if we had taken up we had another nine hours to discuss. But you are not prepared. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H K. L. BHAGAT: I said only that 'this is a very progressive measure and that you should thmk twice before you finally decide to appose the Bills.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: If you have got the guts let the voting take place today itself. Now the whole country knows. (Interruptions).

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Why Mr. Bhaga* is raising the issue. (Interruptions)

SHRI V GOPALSAMY; Your position is very weak. You want to do horsetrading. Whatever happens, Mr. Bhagat. I want to put it very clearly that whenever you want to bring the Bills for voting, you will be defeated. That is what I want to say.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Chaturanan Mishra.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: One minute, Madam...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Now that matter is over.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I hope good sense will prevail on your Members.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : उपसभापति [illegible] एक बात इसमें करनी है मुझे

टोटल 9 घंटा 18 मिनट बाकी रहता है इसमें हम लोग बैठने को तैयार हैं, बहस करने को तैयार हैं, रात के 12 बजे तक हम बैठ सकते हैं। इसी राज्यसभा में तीन बार ऐसा हो चुका है कि रात के 12 बजे तक हम बैठे हैं, शाहबानो वाले पर तो सुबह चार बजे तक हम लोग बैठे, इसके पहले दो बार हम हम लोग 12 बजे तक बैठे हैं। फिर यह जो 9 घंटे 18 मिनट बाकी है, हम लोग बैठने को तैयार हैं।

उपसभापति : आपने शायद सुना नहीं मालवीय जी, भगत जी ने कहा कि सरकार इस बिल को पास करना चाहती है और पास होगा नहीं।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : हम लोग आज ही इसको खतम करना चाहते हैं। सारे विचार विमर्श के बाद आज ही इस पर वोटिंग चाहते हैं, जो 9 घंटे में हो सकती है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Let me ask Mr. Chaturanan Mishra to present his petition.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: The Minister has just stated that they do not have sufficient votes. So what ' is the way out for them? They do not have sufficient votes. Your sitting the whole night will not give sufficient votes to them. If decision is to be on votes, they will be defeated. They are arranging their votes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The ultimate result will be a defeat for them.

PRESENTATION OF A PETITION

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar); Madam, with your permission I present a petition signed by Shri Indrajit Gupta, General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress and others praying for elimination of discrimination against women in different walks of life, Thank you.